

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 IO-12 M-03

A-01 PER-05 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 INRE-00 /119 W

----- 062929

P R 300450 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3321

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2355

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP MOPS LA

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT TO SFRC ON LAOS

REF: A. STATE 063137 (72)

B. VIENTIANE 8086 (72)

HEREWITH MISSION REPORT FOR FOURTH QUARTER CY 72,
USING SAME FORMAT AS PREVIOUS REPORT (REF B). REGRET
DELAY.

1. US PERSONNEL IN LAOS (AS OF 31 DEC 72): 1162.

A. CIVILIAN DIRECT HIRE: 431

B. MILITARY: 197

(1) ARMY ATTACHE: 22

(2) AIR ATTACHE: 8

(3) PROJECT 404 (INCLUDING TDY TO PROJECT 404): 149

(4) MARINE GUARDS AND US NAVY: 18

C. PERSONNEL ON TEMPORARY DUTY: 14

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- (1) CIVILIAN: 1
- (2) MILITARY (LESS TDY PROJECT 404): 13.

D. CONTRACT EMPLOYEES: 520.

2. FRIENDLY MILITARY FORCES (TOTAL STRENGTH AS OF 31 DEC 72): 93,718

- A. FAR/ FAN: 50,152.
- B. LAO IRREGUALR FORCES: 27,303
- C. THAI VOLUNTEERS IN RLG IRREGULAR FORCES: 16,263.

3. ESTIMATED ENEMY FORCES IN LAOS (AVERAGE OF MONTHLY FIGURES DURING FOURTH QUARTER CY 72): 108,000

- A. NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) (EXCLUDING THOSE ENEMY FORCES TRANSITING LAOS VIA HO CHI MINH TRAIL SYSTEM): 70,000
- B. LAO PEOPLE ' S LIBERATION ARMY (LPLA): 36,000
- C. DISSIDENT NEUTRALISTS (DN): 2,000

4. ROYAL LAO AIR FORCE (RLAF) OPERATIONS IN LAOS:

- A. TACTICAL AIR SORTIES (T-28): 10,451.
- B. GUNSHIP/ FLARESHIP SORTIES (AC/ UC-47): 1,326
- C. AIR TRANSPORT SORTIES (C-47/ H-34): 9,856

5. CASUALTIES IN LAOS:

A. US MISSION PERSONNEL: 8 KILLED.

B. LAO:

- (1) FAR/ FAN: 160 KILLED, 434 WOUNDED.
- (2) LAO IRREGUALRS: 552 KILLED, 2040 WOUNDED.

C. THAI VOLUNTEERS: 216 KILLED, 1203 WOUNDED.

D. NVN/ LPLA/ DN (EXCLUDING THOSE IN HO CHI MINH TRAIL AREA RESULTING FROM ACTION OF NON- RLG FORCES): 2862 KILLED, 4283 ESTIMATED KILLED OR WOUNDED.

6. USG MILITARY CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS: NONE.

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7. US MISSION PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION IN LAOS: NONE.

FOLLOWING EXPLANATIONS APPLY TO ABOVE ENTRIES:

PARA 2. A - INCLUDES RLAF STRENGTH OF 2133.

PARA 2. C - DOES NOT INCLUDE 2033 THAI VOLUNTEERS IN THAILAND IN TRAINING.

PARA 3. A - INCREASE (5000) FROM PREVIOUS REPORT DUE TO APPARENT MOVEMENT OF SEVERAL HO CHI MINH TRAIL SUPPLY/ SERVICE ELEMENTS FROM VIET- NAM TO SOUTH LAOS.

PARA 3. B - FIGURE OF 36,000 INCLUDES ABOUT 13,000 CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO PERFORM MILITARY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, E. G. VILLAGE DEFENSE, TRANSPORTAION AND HEADQUARTERS STAFFS, IN PL CONTROLLED AREAS.

PARA 3. C - FIGURE OF 2,000 INCLUDES KHAMMOUANE NEUTRALISTS (APPROX 1,000) ON WHOM WE HAVE HAD NO INTEL- LIGENCE REPORTING SINCE 1968 EXCEPT FOR THEIR FREQUENT MENTION IN RECENT PL PROPAGANDA.

PARA 4. A - INCLUDES 197 T-28 TRAINING SORTIES IN LAOS.

PARA 5. A - SIX OF EIGHT DEATHS BELIEVED RELATED TO HOSTILE ACTION. (SEE VIENTIANE 7945, 8408, 8762, 8848, 9620, 9812, 9813, 9828 (ALL 72) AND STATE 036582 (73) FOR DETAILS.)

PARA 5. D - FIGURE OF 2862 KILLED IS CONSIDERED HARD AND RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE, AND INCLUDES BOTH KIA AND KBA. FIGURE OF 4283 ESTIMATED KILLED OR WOUNDED INCLUDES PROBABLE KIA/ KBA/ WIA/ WBA. ADDRESSEES ARE WELL AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FIRM DATA ON ENEMY CASUALTIES.

PARA 7 - CHANGE THIS ENTRY IN PREVIOUS REPORT (REF B) FROM ONE TO NONE PER STATE 036582.

GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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